

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Present Legislature.

(a) Leading Personalities.

We give below the Cabinet of the new Provisional Government, and brief biographical sketches:

President: General Francisco Uriburu.
Vice-President: Sr. Enrique Santamarina.
Minister of Interior: Sr. Sanchez Sorondo.
Minister of Foreign Affairs: Dr. Ernesto Bosch.
Minister of War: General Francisco Medina.
Minister of the Navy: Rear-Admiral Abel Renard.
Minister of Public Works: Engineer Octavio Pico.
Minister of Agriculture: Dr. Horacio Beccar Varela.
Minister of Finance: Dr. Enrique S. Perez.
Minister of Justice and Public Instruction: Dr. Ernesto E. Padilla

Lieut. General Jose. F. Uriburu; was born in Salta in 1868. After having obtained his Bachelor's degree, he entered the Military College, where he distinguished himself in his class and in practical training, afterwards being sent by the Government to complete his training as a Lieutenant in Germany. He was attached to a Uhlan Regiment and the Artillery Guard. In 1897 he was one of the committee engaged on the Chilean boundary question. In 1902, with the rank of Major, he was appointed Military Attache to the Legation in Madrid. In 1905 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and given command of the 8th Cavalry Regiment. By 1910 he had become one of the most prominent Colonels in the Argentine Army and in 1911 was appointed Military Attache to the Legation in Santiago de Chile, and in 1913 to those of Berlin and London. Lieut. Gen. Uriburu, with the exception of being Minister of War, has filled the highest military appointments.

Enrique Santamarina; was born in Tandil in 1875. The early years of his manhood was spent in studying for the Law, but he soon abandoned it and turned his attention to other activities more in accordance with his own personal tastes. He distinguished himself in all practical questions and earned a reputation as an organiser. He was a member of the boards of many economic and banking institutions and was president of the Banco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires. In 1917 he was made a director of the Banco de la Nacion, was vice-president of the Provincial Roads Committee and various other important councils. As is well-known, he is one of the most prominent members of the Conservative Party.

Dr. Matias G. Sanchez Sorondo; was born in 1880. A notable Jurist and professor of Law, he began his public career as Director of the Schools of the Province of Buenos Aires in 1919. He was also a member of the National Council of Education. As a politician he became a popular idol and one of the leaders of the Opposition. He was an active legislator and his name has been in the forefront of the ranks of the Conservative Party for the past few years.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Present Legislature.

(a) Leading Personalities. (Cont'd)

Dr. Ernesto Bosch; was born in January 1863, in Buenos Aires, where he was educated in the schools of the city and the University, which granted him the degree of Advocate and Doctor of Laws. In 1881 he was sent as Secretary of the Legation to Paris; he served also in the same capacity in Berlin and was promoted to the post of Charge d'affaires at Washington. In 1894 he was appointed Secretary to President Saenz Pena and retained in this post by President Uriburu; some time later he was appointed Provisional Governor in the Province of San Luis. In 1904 he was appointed by President Quintana Chief of the Post Office and Telegraph Service, and in 1905 was appointed as Minister to France and retained this post until 1910, resigning to accept the duties of Minister of Foreign Affairs, which he fulfilled until the resignation of President Roque Saenz Pena in March 1914, since which date he has occupied himself with his personal affairs, which include extensive landed properties.

General Francisco Medina; was born in 1870, and entered the Corporal and Sergeants School in 1886. He was promoted to Sub-Lieutenant in 1890. He was promoted to Colonel in 1913 and to General in 1923. He has been second in Command of the 5th Regiment of Infantry, Secretary of the C.M.'s Office and of the Central Administration Department. He has been Commander of the 9th and 2nd Brigades of Infantry, a Member of the City Council of War for Officers and Commander of the 3rd Division. He retired from active service as late as January of this year.

Rear Admiral Abel Renard; now the Minister of Marine, entered the Naval School in 1890 and graduated in 1894. From that date he was repeatedly promoted until reaching his present rank. He carried out a number of notable voyages, and brought to a successful conclusion several important scientific investigations in connection with the Argentine Navy. He commanded the Azopardo and the Sarmiento and was chief of the Naval Staff. In 1910 he was secretary to the Naval Commission in the United States, and in 1911 was chief of the sub-Commission in Bethlehem. He was also chief of the hydrographic commission on river navigation in the Province of Buenos Aires.

Engineer Octavio Pico; the new Minister of Public Works, was born in the city of Buenos Aires in 1867. He finished his studies as a civil engineer in 1892, and became Professor of Mathematics in the Secondary Schools and a Professor of the University. From 1892 to 1895 he occupied a high position in the Ministry of the Interior, and in the latter year was appointed under-secretary to the Minister of Public Instruction. In 1898 he was appointed Director of Tierras and Colonies. He also occupied the post of advisor and counsellor to the Banco de la Nacion, from which institution he retired on a pension.

From: M. A. Argentina Report No.4214 September 9, 1930.

ARGENTINA (Political)

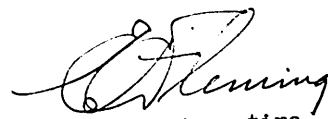
Subject: Present Legislature.

(a) Leading Personalities. (Cont'd)

Dr. Horacio Beccar Varela; as President of the National Committee of the Union Popular Catolica Argentina, Dr. Beccar Varela was named by the Pope in 1923 Caballero Comendador de la Orden de San Gregorio Magno. In 1927 he was appointed Director of the Caja de Conversion. He has contributed his legal services for several years to the American Chamber of Commerce of Argentina of which he is one of the four honorary members; he is a member of the financial committee of the Argentine North American Cultural Society, and is the lawyer of the National City Bank of New York in Buenos Aires.

Dr. Enrique S. Perez; the new Minister of Finance took his degree at the Faculty of Law in 1886. He was elected a National Deputy for the Province of Buenos Aires by the party headed by Dr. Ugarte, but later resigned owing to a disagreement. Dr. Saenz Pena appointed him Director of Inland Revenues, and later Minister of Finance. He was also an Administrator of the State Railways.

Dr. Ernesto E. Padilla; was born in the city of Tucuman in 1873, but went for his education to Buenos Aires, where after receiving his Bachelor's degree he entered the University to study Law, graduating in 1896. Immediately upon leaving the University he was appointed to a Professorship, but soon afterwards returned to Tucuman and there began to practice his profession of the law and that of politics. He was elected National Deputy for Tucuman in 1902, and took an active part in the debate on divorce. In 1911 he was once more elected Deputy for a period of three years, but before his term had expired was elected Governor of the Province. In the elections for the National Congress held in 1918, he was again nominated for Deputy and was elected for the period ending 1922.



From: M. A. Argentina Report No. 4214 September 9, 1930

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G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Executive Branch

(b) Executive Departments.

An interesting exposition of the functions, responsibilities and mechanism of the department under his executive supervision was given by Dr. Pablo Calatayud, Minister of Public Works of the Provisional Government of Argentina, in an address to the members of the United States Chamber of Commerce on August 4th. A free translation follows:

"The Ministry of Public Works was created in 1897, as a consequence of the respective law sanctioned in compliance with a mandate of the reformed Constitution. It comprises seven general departments some of which are of fundamental importance in the economic development of the country. It controls and superintends the State Railways, the Sanitary Works of the Nation and the Railway Pensions Fund."

"The general sections are: the 'Direccion General' of railways; roads and bridges; architecture; irrigation; navigation and ports; the accountancy of the Ministry; and the survey and works of the Riachuelo."

"The mere mention of these departments convey an idea of the vast variety and immensity of the activities under the supervision of the Ministry."

"The Department of Railways deals with everything connected with the organization of the railway services of the country, maintaining direct control over the State and private enterprises as regards their time-tables, tariffs, compliance with laws, etc."

"The Department of Roads and Bridges, as its name implies, is in charge of the supervision of the general national programme of road communications, and even within certain provinces participates in certain works and road construction, assisting the provinces where their financial situation calls for the collaboration of the national authorities."

"The Department of Architecture attends to the upkeep of all the public buildings of the country and supervises every detail of new buildings constructed. The department acts in advisory capacity where private buildings are rented by the state."

"The Department of Irrigation, apart from its technical studies, takes charge of the construction, administration and control of important irrigation works in those parts of the country where such works are required. It collaborates with the Provincial Governments, but most of the Provinces have actually delegated to the Department of Irrigation the upkeep of the works located in their territory. The department constructs and operates hydro-electric stations."

From M.A.Argentina

Report No.4409

August 11,1931

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Executive Branch

(b) Executive Departments.

"One of the most important departments of the Ministry is, of course, that of Navigation and Ports. Without taking into account the construction of new ports, canals etc. one need only consider the immense responsibility of keeping the national ports open to shipping, and looking after all the floating material, buoys, dredgers, channels etc. of the rivers Plate, Parana and Uruguay and their tributaries. This Department is concerned whenever accidents occur, and at the same time it operates the most important shipyards in the country."

"The Department of Survey and Works of the Riachuelo is steadily and, as far as funds allow, proceeding with the work of straightening the course of this river, building bridges across it and doing everything possible to make it an efficient adjunct of the Port of the Capital."

"The Ministry also superintends the operations of several autonomous departments such as the Sanitary works of the Capital, Provinces and Territories and in superintending the State Railways, which have the largest mileage of any system in the country."

"The complexity and variety of the problems which crop up every day can well be imagined. The administration of these different activities calls for a complicated mechanism and for a high standard of efficiency on the part of the distinguished engineers and assistants employed as heads of the different departments."

"The budget of my Ministry is divided into two annexes: in the first place we have annexe I which comprises what we may call the permanent plant. The other is annexe II which covers public works. For political reasons the Governments immediately preceding us made use of both these funds, particularly the second one, to confer favours on their political 'pals.' Jobs and contracts were promised right and left without any worry as to whether they were necessary or as to where the funds were coming from to pay for them. Hence deficits have been piling up year after year until the public debt of the nation and provinces has been increased in round figures from 1,000 million to more than 4,600 million pesos national currency. Thus we have an infinity of authorized works which not only cannot possibly be carried out, but which cannot even be started owing to the absolute lack of funds. The Governments in question made promises knowing perfectly well they could not possibly keep them."

"And this is not all!"

"Apart from favors dispensed outside, jobs were found inside for political place-seekers. Individuals were helped out of their difficulties with State funds, and their existence creates a human problem for whoever may come along

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ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Executive Branch

(b) Executive Departments.

with the ambition to establish order and regularity in the administration."

"No sooner did the proposition of establishing a relative adjustment of income and expenditure present itself than, almost as a matter of course, the two annexes described above were seized upon as the means to that end. Consequently, economy has had to be implanted, not only as regards the permanent plant and its personnel, but also in regard to public works to be carried out."

"It suffices to say that in 1930 and notwithstanding the strict economy implanted by the revolutionary regime in the last four months, the expenditure on public works under annexe L. was no less than \$67,000,000 m/n. In the current year we can only spend about \$37,000,000 m/n in the five main section. In the permanent plant (annexe 1.) of the budget, the reduction will amount to nearly 20 per cent. This means to say that from 45 millions of pesos we have to get down to 34,357,512 m/n."

"This naturally means less work and less personnel. It is really a pity not to be able to carry out certain works required by the poorer Provinces, and it is an even greater pity to have to throw people out of work in these hard times. The fact remains that the public service must not be regarded as merely for the convenience of the employee. As a matter of fact, this whole bureaucratic problem is one which needs to be thoroughly dealt with, starting from the very roots. Ours is not the only country so placed. We in this Government have no axe to grind, but we are doing our best in the service of the great and permanent interest of the nation."

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4409

August 11, 1931.

Britania L. Julia
Clerk.

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OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
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WAR DEPARTMENT

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Present Executive and Cabinet.

(b) Present Cabinet:

On February 20, 1932, General Agustin P. Justo and Dr. Julio A. Roca were sworn into office as the constitutional President and Vice-President of the Argentine Republic. The ceremony was short and devoid of all display. General Justo in his speech to the Congress did not actually outline the programme of his Government, but mentioned that everything would be done to assure the liberty of the people and the full scope of constitutional Government. He also stated that some reforms of the National Constitution would have to be made and that the proposed amendments would follow their normal course. With regard to Argentina's relations with foreign countries he spoke as follows;

"I assume power at a time when there does not exist even one international problem which might compromise the traditional friendship which all our Governments have maintained, following in that way the desire of fraternal union which is ever in the soul of the Argentine people. To observe that same conduct, to strengthen the links which already exist and to contribute with all our efforts towards international concord will be my principal preoccupation. The world-wide crisis which has caused in our country complex problems at a moment when prodigality, lack of prevision and bad government had carried the nation to a very serious extreme, affects the sale of the products of our two fundamental industries, and to offset that pernicious influence, the cooperation of all is required to collaborate in the search for solutions. I think that besides a policy of mutual understanding with the countries who constitute our principal markets, the most severe economy is required in the national administration. Our capacity and our firm resolution of reducing our expenses, so that debts may not go on increasing, and with them the taxes, are the initial means to which we must appeal to reconquer our prosperity."

As regards the composition of General Justo's Cabinet, the Anti-Personalist Radicals have two ministers as against one Conservative, one Independent Socialist, two politically independent, and two non-political men. The new Ministers are the following:

Minister of the Interior:

Dr. Leopoldo Melo

- Anti-Personalist Radical

Minister of Finance:

Dr. Alberto Hueyo

- Independent of existing parties.

Minister of Public Works:

Dr. Manuel Ramon Alvarado-

Conservative.

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Dr. Carlos Saavedra Lamas - Independent of existing parties.

Minister of Agriculture:

Dr. Antonio de Tomaso - Independent Socialist.

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4522

March 7, 1932.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Present Executive and Cabinet.

(b) Present Cabinet:Minister of Justice & Pub. Instruction;

Dr. Manuel de Iriondo - Anti-Personalist Radical.

Minister of War;

Colonel Manuel A. Rodriguez - Non-political.

Minister of Marine;

Captain Pedro S. Casal - Non-political.

In the case of Dr. Manuel Ramon Alvarado listed as a Conservative, he is not a leading member or representative of the Conservative Party, but merely a Conservative in politics as a matter of choice. The Conservative Party or "Partido Democrata Nacional" do not feel that they have been represented in the Cabinet and are deeply offended by the action of General Justo, inasmuch as they are the party that financed his elections. It is believed in some circles that some of the members of this Cabinet are merely "eyewash" for the time being and that they will be supplanted by others whose views are more in line with the supporters of General Justo.

It will be noted that in appointing Dr. Antonio de Tomaso an Independent Socialist to the office of Minister of Agriculture, that he has been placed where he can do the least damage. Dr. de Tomaso is a very intelligent and highly respected personage and it is barely possible that like some of the "lefts" in France, now that he is a Cabinet member he might turn slightly to the "right".

Dr. Leopoldo Melo; The new Minister of the Interior is a well known lawyer and a Professor of Law at Buenos Aires University. He has been a Governor of Entre Rios and a National Deputy. He is considered the most influential person in the Anti-Personalist Radical Party. In 1928 he ran as a candidate for the Presidency against Sr. Hipolito Irigoyen but was defeated. (See Who's Who card, May 5, 1927.)

Dr. Alberto Hueyo; The new Minister of Finance is not so well known as his colleagues in the new Cabinet, but nevertheless he has had a long and distinguished career. He has been President of the Central Produce Market, the Gas Company of La Plata and has been associated with various other commercial firms. During the Alvear presidency he occupied the position of Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Marine. He has often expressed an opinion contrary to the issue of unsupported paper money and is the author of many works on monetary questions. His appointment came as perhaps the greatest surprise among all the ministerial nominations. Dr. Hueyo has declared himself independent of any of the existing political parties.

Dr. Manuel Ramon Alvarado; The new Minister of Public Works is a lawyer by profession and belongs to the Conservative Party. A native of Salta he has represented that Province in the National Chamber of Deputies and has also been candidate for

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Present Executive and Cabinet.

(b) Present Cabinet:

the governorship. Under the Provisional Government he held the post of National Interventor in the Province of Buenos Aires.

Dr. Carlos Saavedra Lamas: The new Minister of Foreign Affairs is a distinguished politician and author. He has held many important positions during his brilliant career. Under the presidency of Dr. Saenz Peña he was Minister of Public Works, a post in which he made many important innovations, and his well known works on labor legislation won him the honor of being chosen President of the International Labor Conference held in Geneva in 1928. He is a lawyer and a Professor of Law at Buenos Aires University. He is said to be a fervent partisan of the League of Nations. Although he officially does not belong to any party, he has Conservative leanings. Dr. Lamas speaks English fluently and has a great admiration for Anglo-Saxon institutions. In a statement to the Press shortly after his recent appointment he said - "I consider Great Britain our best friend, and I am anxious for mutual trade relations to continue in a manner advantageous for the two countries. I intend to make a thorough study of the whole question of trade relations with Great Britain before I make a statement on the matter."

Dr. Antonio de Tomaso: The new Minister of Agriculture is a conspicuous member of the Socialist Party from his early youth. He was elected National Deputy for the city of Buenos Aires in 1914 and held this post through successive re-elections until September 1930, when Congress was dissolved by General Uriburu. In 1926 he was the principal leader of the division among the Socialists and founder of the Independent Socialist Party. In the last national elections he was a candidate for one of the senatorships for the Capital, but was not successful. He has had no previous experience in agriculture. (See Who's Who card, May 5, 1927)

Dr. Manuel de Iriondo: The new Minister of Justice and Public Instruction is a prominent Anti-Personalist Radical. He was born in the province of Santa Fe and was a leader of the Radical Party in its early days. During the governorship of Bernardo de Irigoyen he was designated Minister in the Province of Buenos Aires. This took place in 1898 and two years later he was elected National Deputy, being reelected in 1904. He was chosen candidate for the Anti-Personalist Radicals for the governorship of Santa Fe in the recent elections, but was not successful. (See Who's Who card, December 18, 1929.)

Colonel Manuel A. Rodriguez: The new Minister of War is not unknown in the Ministry, having held the post of Secretary in the Ministry of War when General Justo was Minister of War during the presidency of Dr. Alvear. At present, in spite of his relative youth, he is President of the Circulo

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Present Executive and Cabinet.

(b) Present Cabinet:

Militar and is considered one of the best strategists in the country. Colonel Rodriguez is non-political. (See Who's Who card, May 15, 1928.)

The present Military Attache, contrary to his predecessor would rate Colonel Rodriguez as above average. His worst failing, if it can be considered as such, is the opinion his fellow officers have of him as a stickler for regulations.

Captain Pedro S. Casal; Like Colonel Rodriguez the new Minister of Marine has previously been Under-Secretary of the Ministry which he now heads. His rise in the Navy was rapid and brilliant and he was designated Director of the Naval College, a position he was obliged to resign from during Sr. Irigoyen's second term as President. On September 12, 1931 he returned to his old post, which he has held until the present time. He is one of the most popular officers in the Navy. He is the other non-political member of the Cabinet.



From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4522

March 7, 1932.

FOR OFFICIAL USE
ONLY

G-2 Report

3110

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Present Executive and Cabinet.

(b) Present Cabinet.

On July 19th, the Minister of Finance, Dr. Alberto Hueyo, resigned his post in the cabinet of General Justo.

The decree accepting his resignation was held up several days pending the possibility of his renouncing his former intentions. President Justo and the Minister of the Interior, Dr. Leopoldo Melo, personally called upon the Minister in an endeavor to bring him back into the fold, but his mind was made up to resign.

The presidential decree accepting his resignation follows:

"The President of the Argentine Nation decrees:

- 1) The resignation presented by the Minister of Finance, Dr. Alberto Hueyo, is hereby accepted, expressing thanks and due appreciation of his important collaboration in the service of the Republic during his term of office.
- 2) Until the vacant post is filled, the portfolio will be temporarily filled by the Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, Dr. Manuel Iriondo."

For several months, the members of the Cabinet have been at swords points over the balancing of the budget and the financial policy of the Minister of Finance. Warning from time to time had been given by Dr. Hueyo that the respective ministries must reduce expenses, namely the War, Navy and Public Works, all of which have consistently refused to listen to his advices.

His fixed ideas of meeting the debt payments has resulted in increased taxation and enforced increasing economies within the several departments. When the 1934 estimates were submitted, the Minister demanded still more stringent reductions, and no agreement could be reached. He realized that he could no longer carry out his mission and remain in the Cabinet.

In addition, when the "Roca" agreement came up before the National Chamber of Deputies for a vote (Roca Agreement - Report No. 4675) and was passed, the matter of revision of tariffs could not be tolerated by Hueyo, who was depending to a large extent upon customs revenues to swell the coffers of the Argentine Treasury in order to balance the budget. Dr. Saavedra Lamas, looking at it purely from the diplomatic side, and to further his ends as Minister of Foreign Affairs, was in accord with the passage of the Treaty by the Deputies. Hueyo's last bridge had been burned beneath him, so he resigned.

From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4720 July 28, 1933.

G-2 Report

3110

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Present Executive and Cabinet.

(b) Present Cabinet.

There is much speculation at the present time as to just what the financial policy of the Government will be.

Public opinion is to the effect that with Hueyo out, tax burdens will be lightened, and debt payments to the United States and Great Britain will be suspended at once.

Banking and financial circles look for gradual inflation of the currency and a consequent loss of valuation of the Argentine peso. These circles regret the loss of a strong and honest Minister of Finance, who has exercised his functions well.

Due to the fact that President Justo was in accord with the views of his ex-Minister of Finance, it is believed by the Military Attache that no radical changes will be permitted in the near future, but, instead, all changes will come about gradually.

Fredrick S. Sharp
Cpr G-5110
From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4720

July 28, 1933.

FOR OFFICIAL USE
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2271- L 27 1934

2-1 Report

OF STAFF (Continued)

Subject: Present Executive and Cabinet

(c) Present Cabinet

Resignation of the Minister of War
Brigadier General Manuel A. Rodriguez

Brigadier General Manuel A. Rodriguez, the present Minister of War, is about to resign due to ill health - cancer of the stomach. While he was in Germany, about four years ago, attached to the German Army, he underwent an operation for tumor of the stomach, and for nearly a year has been a sick man.

He has been the stabilizing factor in the Cabinet of President Justo, having a strong influence upon and great popularity with the Army. His methods have been vigorous, and he is an able officer, professionally qualified. His renouncing his post will certainly remove the pressure he has exerted in holding the Army under strong control during the recent radical revolutionary risings. President Justo will, therefore, not be as sure in the future of the former guarantee of loyalty of his land forces.

His probable successors are Brigadier General Enrique Jauregui, now Quartermaster General, or Rodolfo Martinez Pita, Chief of the Military Geographic Institute (map production plant).

General Martinez Pita is a great favorite of President Justo. He is suave and well qualified professionally, an engineer of varied experience, and would be a popular choice.

General Enrique Jauregui, on the other hand, is the hard boiled type, brusque, not suave, but as well qualified professionally and an engineer.

Both of these officers are thoroughly German, professionally educated and undoubtedly the two best Brigadier Generals in the Army.

Both of the candidates are personal friends of the Attache.

Frederick D. Ship
From M.A. Argentina
Capt H. S. MA

Report No. 4845

February 8, 1934.

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)
Subject: Stability of Government

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MAR 28 1936
2271-4 27
4
WAR DEPARTMENT

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

RECEIVED G-2 W. D. MAR 20 1936
General Manuel A. Rodriguez, Minister of War in President Justo's Cabinet, died at Mar del Plata on February 23rd.

His death was due to the cause mentioned in paragraph one, report number 4845 index 3110.

His probable successor is either General Enrique Jauregui or Nicolas Accame. General Martinez Pita, due to his bad judgement and aggressiveness while serving on the Neutral Military Commission, has lost any chances which he once had.

Paragraph two of the above report is called to the attention of the Department, as in the future a different political aspect may present itself.

Source: Personal Information

Frederick D. Sharp
Frederick D. Sharp
Capt., G.S.,
Military Attache.

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G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Present Cabinet.

On December 30th, 1935, the Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, Dr. Iriondo, tendered his resignation in order to pursue his candidacy for the governorship of Santa Fe. As a result of his resignation, all the other members of the Cabinet tendered their resignations so that the President might be in a position to reorganize his Cabinet. Dr. Iriondo's resignation was accepted as well as that of the Minister of Finance, Dr. Pinedo and the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Duha. The new members of the Cabinet are as follows:

Minister of Finance: Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz

Minister of Justice
and Public Instruction: Dr. Ramon S. Castillo

Minister of Agriculture: Dr. Miguel A. Carcano.

Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz, Minister of Finance:

Dr. Ortiz is and has been a member of the Radical Party from the first years of his career. In 1918 he represented the Radical Party (Union Civica Radical) in the Municipal Council and two years was the Party's representative in the National Chamber of Deputies where he remained until 1924. In the meantime, Dr. Marcelo T. Alvear was elected President and the Radical Party divided into the two groups "Personalistas and Anti-Personalistas." Dr. Ortiz figured among the latter together with such prominent Radicals as Drs. Gallo, Tamborini, Melo and others. When his term of office as deputy had terminated, Dr. Ortiz was not re-elected. President Alvear then appointed him Administrator of Internal Taxes, a post which he held for one year leaving it to enter the Cabinet as Minister of Public Works until the end of the presidential term of office in October, 1928. With the election of Hipolito Irigoyen to the Presidency, Dr. Ortiz retired from politics. After the Revolution in 1930, he figured in the reorganization of the Radical Party headed by Dr. Alvear, but no longer took an active part in politics. Upon assuming the presidency, General Justo would have included Dr. Ortiz in his Cabinet, but the latter refused the appointment which he has now accepted.

Dr. Ramon S. Castillo, Minister of Justice & Public Instruction.

Dr. Castillo, ex-Dean of the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires, began his career in the Courts as member of the clerical staff where he soon became Clerk of Court; shortly after he was appointed Criminal Judge at La Plata and was acting as member of the Supreme Court there when he was called back to Buenos Aires to act as Judge and then member of the Commercial Court.

In the matter of public instruction, he is a professor of commercial law; Dean of the Faculty of Buenos Aires, and its delegate to the Superior Council.

He has taken an active part in numerous juridical congresses.

Politically, Dr. Castillo has to his credit the intervention of the

From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 5329

Date: March 20, 1936.

C-2 Report

3110-b

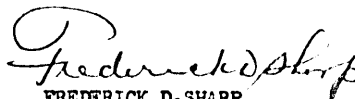
Province of Tucuman during the Provisional Government of General Jose F. Uriburu, and his recent appointment as national senator for Catamarca.

Dr. Miguel Angel Carcano, Minister of Agriculture

The new Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Carcano has been associated for many years with the agrarian institutions of the country and has devoted himself to the study of the problems confronting the country's fundamental industries. He has been Secretary of the Argentine Rural Society; as a university professor, has taught agricultural subjects, and his written work on agriculture entitled "Evolucion historica del regimen de la tierra publica", was awarded one of the national prizes of 1917.

From the beginning of his political career, he has been allied to the Democratic Party of Cordoba, which he has represented in the National Chamber of Deputies, since 1932. Dr. Carcano was also a member of the special embassy under Dr. Julio Roca which negotiated with Great Britain the commercial treaty now in force.

Source: Press



FREDERICK D. SHARP,
Captain, G.S.,
Military Attache.

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G-2 Report

3110-b

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ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Present Cabinet.

Appointment of New Minister of the Interior

Dr. Ramon S. Castillo

Appointment of New Minister of Justice and Public Instruction

Dr. Jorge de la Torre

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President Justo last week appointed Dr. Ramon S. Castillo, then holder of the portfolio of Justice and Public Instruction, to be Minister of the Interior in succession to Dr. Melo who resigned from that office some time ago. At the same time he appointed Dr. Jorge de la Torre to be the new Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, this coming as something of a surprise in political circles where Dr. de la Torre has so far been by no means a prominent figure. He belongs to a very old and well known Cordoba family, and is part owner of the famous Jesuit Convent Santa Catalina, a jealously guarded relic of the past.

Doctor Jorge de la Torre was born in 1876, and is thus now in his sixtieth year. At the age of 21 he was received as a lawyer in the city of Buenos Aires after having served for five years in the secretariat of the Supreme Court. His views on the question of civil marriage had attracted some attention at the time. In 1898 he was appointed secretary of the First Appeal Court by Judge Agustin Garcia, and there his abilities were also duly recognized, with the result that in 1904 he became secretary to the Civil Court, whilst in 1908 he was nominated Judge of the Court of Appeal. He served in this latter capacity until 1911, when President Saenz Pena appointed him a member of the First Civil Court, where he remained until 1923, his legal decisions during that time frequently serving as precedents in present day litigation. On his retirement on pension from the Courts he was made the recipient of many demonstrations, among others being that of the "Procuradores de la Capital" who recorded their recognition of his justice and equanimity in dealing with all parties. Since 1909 he has held the Chair on Civil Rights in the Faculty of Law, and for the last twelve years has been a lecturer on history and geography in the Mariano Moreno National College.

Source: "The Review of the River Plate".

Lester Baker

Lester Baker
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G-2 Report

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WAR DEPARTMENT
10-6

ARGENTINA - Political

Subject - Present Cabinet.

The present Argentine cabinet may in general be said to represent a group of able and patriotic men even though in most cases they have been chosen for political as well as for administrative considerations. The Justo Government is regarded as one of the best that Argentina has had and has certainly achieved a great deal in taking advantage of the country's prosperous position in world trade and in using this position for developing the country from within.

President Justo, since the advent of his stop-gap administration in 1932 (composed at first principally of National Democrats - Conservatives) has been confronted with the problem of catering to the popular trend of the country toward the Radical Party, although this party has only recently begun to take part in elections. The President has therefore filled cabinet vacancies with men of Radical tendencies, at the same time acceptable to the Conservatives, such as the Minister of Finance and the Minister of War. The political coloring of the present cabinet therefore may be said to be moderate with an increasingly strong Radical tendency.

The ranking cabinet position is supposedly that of Minister of the Interior, although in the present cabinet the Minister of Finance is unquestionably the dominating personality and the right hand man of the President, having considerable influence with him. The following is a list of the cabinet ministers together with comments on each:

Dr. Ramon S. Castillo, Minister of the Interior

Dr. Castillo, former Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, was born in Catamarca in 1873. He has had a long legal career, holding various positions in provincial courts until 1904 when he was appointed member of the Supreme Council of the Province of Buenos Aires. He was a commercial judge in Buenos Aires from 1905 to 1910, a criminal judge from 1910 to 1914 and Justice of the Commercial Court from 1914 to 1918. He has held the professorship of the Faculty of Law of the University of La Plata and various other University positions. He is an authority on legal matters and was a delegate to the Pan American Conference at Montevideo in 1933. Before becoming Minister he was also a national Senator from the Province of Catamarca.

Like so many distinguished men in Argentina, Dr. Castillo comes from one of the smaller, more native "criollo" provinces of the interior. He is rather "the scholar in politics" and has a very high standing in judicial circles. He has a very excellent reputation and most pleasing personality.

Dr. Castillo has obviously not identified himself strongly with political parties although he is reported to lean towards the Anti-Personalist Radical Party in his political views.

From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 5474

Date: November 4, 1936

Dr. Carlos Saavedra Lamas, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Saavedra Lamas was born in Buenos Aires in 1880. His professional and cultural attainments rather than his political activities are the basis of his influence with political leaders. He was appointed professor of Political Economy, a member of the University of Buenos Aires, national deputy in 1908 to 1912 and Minister of Justice and Education in the cabinet of President de la Plaza in 1914. In succeeding administrations he held aloof from public office because he had married the daughter of President elect Saenz Pena.

Saavedra Lamas has represented Argentina in numerous conferences abroad and presided over the Eleventh International Labor Conference at Geneva in 1928. He was elected President of the General Plenary Session of the League of Nations for this year.

Dr. Saavedra Lamas has undoubtedly brought the position of Minister for Foreign Affairs into prominence and importance which it hitherto somewhat lacked. His connection with the present Chaco Peace Conference, with the Pan American Conference and with the forthcoming Pan American Peace Conference have enabled him to keep Argentina - and incidentally himself - in the public eye.

Dr. Saavedra Lamas is cultured, energetic and vain, with an undoubtedly brilliant and erratic mind. While he is cordially disliked by other Latin American countries and somewhat ridiculed by his own people they nevertheless now recognize his enormous capacity for work and his increasing Argentine international prestige as well as lending a forceful, if self-seeking hand, in Pan American affairs.

Dr. Saavedra Lamas has been mentioned as a candidate for Presidential honors in 1937. It is felt, however, that he has little real political influence at home, although this may be increasing.

Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz, Minister of Finance.

Dr. Ortiz was born in Buenos Aires in 1886 and has had a long political and business career. He was elected Councilman of the Radical Party in 1918, entering the Chamber of Deputies shortly thereafter. He was later appointed Administrator of Internal Taxation and then Minister of Public Works under former President Alvear until the end of his presidential period. After 1928 Dr. Ortiz withdrew from public life and turned to his legal profession. He has been director of several well known companies including the Union Telefonica, a subsidiary of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, which administers the Buenos Aires telephone system.

Due to his affiliations with American interests Dr. Ortiz is reported friendly to the United States. He is considered as a sound, practical person who has at the same time traveled enough out of Argentina to broaden his outlook. While if not the financial genius his predecessor, Dr. Pinedo, was, Dr. Ortiz has shown that he is capable of adopting a more conciliatory and less intransigent attitude toward his position.

Being an Anti-Personalist Radical his appointment as Minister of Finance is considered to have more political significance than otherwise, and to be an effort on the part of the President to bring the administration closer to the political temperament of the country. He is at present undoubtedly the leading figure in the cabinet and has the most influence with President Justo.

Dr. Jorge de la Torre, Minister of Justice and Public Instruction.

Dr. de la Torre was born in 1876. He belongs to one of the oldest families of the Province of Cordoba. He graduated from law school in 1897 and immediately entered on a judicial career. After being secretary of a number of courts for various years, he was appointed Judge of the First Instance in 1908 and was later promoted to be a member of the First Civil Chamber. A number of his decisions have been cited as authority in subsequent cases. He retired from the judiciary in 1923. He continued, however, as a professor of civil law in the Law School, and as a teacher of history and geography in the Colegio Nacional.

Dr. de la Torre is a man almost unknown to politicians and to the general public alike. As a retired judge and a professor in the Law School of the University of Buenos Aires he has, however, had close contact with the judiciary of the country, and as a teacher for many years in the Colegio Nacional (National High School), he is presumably well fitted to administrate the schools of the country. His appointment, although received with surprise, has in general been favorably commented on by the local press. He is considered to be an Anti-Personalist Radical.

General Basilio B. Portine, Minister of War.

General Portine was born in Buenos Aires in April, 1879. He was educated in the Argentine Military college and later made sub-Lieutenant in 1896. He served with various infantry units until 1905 when he was sent to Germany to join a unit of the German Army. In 1909 he was promoted to Major and assigned as Military Attache at Rio de Janeiro, and in 1910 as Military Attache in Berlin. At the invitation of the General Staff, he joined the German General Headquarters at the outbreak of War in August, 1914. He was promoted to Colonel in 1919, Brigadier General in 1927 and Division General in 1933. In 1930 he was named Chairman of the Armament Purchasing Commission in Europe, where he was at the time of his appointment as Minister of War.

Since General Portine studied in Germany considerably, and has written several books on the operation of the German army, his leanings are undoubtedly in that direction, particularly as the Argentine Army has been dominated by German military influence and has had German military advisers.

Although General Portine may not be as universally popular with the army as his predecessor, General Rodriguez, he is nevertheless held in the highest esteem. He is openly a Radical and was appointed to his present position particularly because of his party affiliation. Although in the army perhaps a majority of the officers are of conservative tendencies the rank and file are said to be Radical. In General Portine's appointment the President undoubtedly saw an opportunity to cater to popular opinion and to keep at the same time his own popularity and control of the army.

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 5474

Date: November 4, 1936

Captain Eleazar Videla, Minister of Marine.

Captain Videla was born in 1880. He entered the Naval Academy in September 1898 and was graduated in February, 1904, with rank of Midshipman upon completing the course on board the Naval Training Ship "Presidente Sarmiento". He was promoted to ensign in 1906, Lieutenant Jr.Gr. in 1908, Lieutenant Sr.Gr. in 1911, Lieut. Commander in 1916, Commander in 1922 and Captain in 1922.

Captain Videla after graduation served on the General Staff of the Patria. Later he made a trip to the Straits on the Ushuaia. He was Assistant Navigation Officer of the Training Ship Sarmiento and also served on the Caribaldi, Moreno and Uruguay. He was Chief of Staff of the Minister of Marine during the Provisional Government. Later he became Assistant Director of Material, Chief of Buenos Aires Arsenal and was Chief of the 1st. Destroyer Division at the time of his appointment.

Captain Videla has received decorations and medals from Spain, Japan, Chile, Brazil and the French Colonies.

Dr. Miguel Angel Carcano, Minister of Agriculture.

Dr. Carcano was born in Buenos Aires in 1889 and is said to be one of the able young Argentines. He comes from a socially prominent and wealthy family widely connected here, his father being Argentine Ambassador to Rio de Janeiro. He speaks English and French, has an excellent reputation and a particularly pleasing personality.

Dr. Carcano was professor of Agricultural Science in the Faculty of Economic Sciences, Dr. of Agricultural Economy, professor in the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences and on the Executive Board of Argentine Rural Society. He was elected National deputy from Cordoba in 1928, resigned during the revolution of 1930 and was re-elected deputy in 1932. He held the position of Minister Plenipotentiary on the special mission to London, headed by vice-President Roca, in 1933 to negotiate the Roca-Runciman agreement.

In spite of Dr. Carcano's reputation it is doubtful whether he exercises much influence as Minister of Agriculture over the carrying out of the country's economic policy, certainly he has not the force of his predecessor, Dr. Duhal. Although a National Democrat he is far from being ultra-conservative and his appointment has been very popular, even said to be satisfactory to the Radicals.

Dr. Manuel R. Alvarado, Minister of Public Works.

Dr. Alvarado, an active National Democrat (Conservative), is a lawyer by profession. He has been a national deputy and has taken a leading part in the affairs of the Province of Salta. He was appointed Interventor of the Province of Buenos Aires by General Uriburu, to succeed Dr. Carlos Meyer Pellegrini, a position which he resigned several years ago. Dr. Alvarado is the only active National Democrat member of President Justo's cabinet. As Minister of Public Works he is considered as strong and efficient and has an excellent reputation although very little known to the public at large.

Sources: Personal contacts and Press.

Lester Baker
Lester Baker
Lt. Col., Inf.
Military Attache

From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 5474

Date: November 4, 1936

G-2 Report

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ARGENTINA - Political

Subject: Present Cabinet.

The following changes (previously reported) have taken place in the composition of the cabinet since the publication of the last Argentine Political Estimate. This is again reported at this time in view of additional information.

The Ex-Minister of the Interior, Dr. Leopoldo Melo, is said to have resigned in order to place himself at the head of a section of the Anti-Personalist Radical Party and run as a candidate for the presidency of the Republic. He has been succeeded as Minister of the Interior by Dr. Ramon S. Castillo (Conservative).

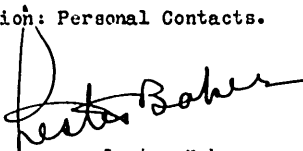
Dr. Federico Pinedo, Ex-Minister of Finance has been succeeded by Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz (Anti-Personalist Radical).

Dr. Luis Duhau (Conservative), Ex-Minister of Agriculture has been succeeded by Dr. Miguel A. Carcano (Conservative). Dr. Duhau was forced by public opinion to tender his resignation, owing to the political incident which culminated in the shooting of Senator Bar-babehere of Santa Fe who openly accused Dr. Duhau of being personally implicated in the supposed fraudulent practices of the packing houses.

The Ex-Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, Dr. Manuel do Iriondo (Anti-Personalist Radical) resigned in order to become a candidate for Governor of the Province of Santa Fe, for which he was elected recently after that Province had been intervened by the Federal Government. He has been succeeded by Dr. Jorge de la Torre (Non-Political).

The Ex-Minister of War, General Manuel A. Rodriguez (Non-Political) died last year and was succeeded by General Basilio Pertine (Non-Political).

Source of Information: Personal Contacts.



Lester Baker
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G-2 Report.

Reference: No. 5570 April 29, 1937.

ARGENTINA - Political.
Subject: Present Cabinet:
Two new members.

Two members of the Argentine Cabinet resigned their posts during the last week in June to become, respectively, candidates for president and vice-president of Argentina in the September elections. These officials, Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz, minister of finance, and Dr. Ramon S. Castillo, minister of interior, are considered to be the candidates of President Justo and of the political majority now in power in the Federal government.

Dr. Carlos Alberto Acevedo has been named minister of finance to succeed Dr. Ortiz. This ministry was first offered to Señor Jorge A. Santamarina who is president of the Banco de la Nacion Argentina; he declined on the ground of illhealth and owing his desire to continue his present work. Dr. Acevedo was the vice president of the same bank. He has specialized in economic subjects for years and has held professional appointments of the faculty of law. In 1928 he represented the Argentine Government at the International Labor Conference at Geneva. For a time he was under-secretary of finance during the ministry of Dr. Alberto Hueyo but, since 1933, he has been connected solely with banking affairs. In a speech after he was named to the post of finance minister he promised to carry out the policies of Dr. Ortiz who has strengthened Argentine credit abroad by his funding operations of Argentine loans in New York and London whereby Argentina at present probably has the best financial rating in those markets of any South American country.

Señor Manuel R. Alvarado has taken over the duties of minister of interior in addition to his present duties as minister of public works; he will hold both portfolios. The ministry of the interior in Argentina ranks number one position in the cabinet and it corresponds closely to that of secretary of state in the Washington government. Political and business circles regard the choice of Señor Alvarado as a happy one in as much as he has been in active collaboration with the Justo government from the outset. He entered politics in 1906 as provincial deputy in Salta where he was born in 1882. Until 1922 when he was elected to the national congress he was in politics in his native province and served for two years as its finance minister. From 1922 to 1930 he was a member of the finance and budget committee of the Chamber, interventor in the province of Buenos Aires during the provisional government and made minister of public works in 1932.

Source: Press, personal contacts.

Lester Baker
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Military Attache.

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From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 5608.

June 26, 1937.

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G-2 Report.

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ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Present Cabinet;
Ortiz Appoints Ministers.

After many days of speculation in political circles and in the press regarding the composition of the new Cabinet, all forecasts were finally settled on the evening of February 14th when President-elect Roberto Ortiz made public the names of his official family. This was six days before the inauguration of the new Government, February 20th.

Press comment points out that if the delay in forming the new Cabinet can be taken as evidence then there are few people in Argentina willing to accept a post carrying a salary of \$2,400 a month and \$900 a month entertainment allowance (Argentine pesos). It is known that several portfolios were offered and rejected by the prospective candidates; in the case of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at least three men were considered before final appointment was made, including the present incumbent, Dr. Saavedra Lamas.

The Cabinet as constituted contains few well-known names, and as far as the popularity of its members goes it does not compare favorably with its predecessors. The President-elect seems to have gone about his task on moderate lines, and to have avoided bringing into his Cabinet any scintillating political figures who have been so much in the public eye that they might prove to be difficult to handle.

It is a Cabinet which seems to be designed to be moderate in outlook, and so to represent the attitude of the moderate mass of the nation which is the backbone of the country. Its members are:

Interior - Dr. Diogenes Taboada;
Foreign Affairs - Dr. José Maria Cantilo;
Finance - Dr. Pedro Groppo;
Justice & Public Instruction - Dr. Jorge E. Coll;
Agriculture - Sr. José Padilla;
Public Works - Sr. Manuel R. Alvarado;
War - General Carlos D. Márquez;
Marine - Vice Admiral León Scasso.

(Biographical sketches subject of separate reports).

Source: Press.

Lester Baker
Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attaché.

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MILITARY ATTACHE REPORT

RESTRICTED

Subject Julio Argentino Roca, Foreign Minister.

Country Reported On

I. G. No. 5990

Brief Descriptive Title

Source and Degree of Reliability:

Official.

Summarization of Report
When Required



Dr. Julio A. Roca

Dr. Julio A. Roca who was appointed Foreign Minister September 1, 1940, was vice president of Argentina during the Justo administration. He is probably the strongest character in the new Cabinet.

The new Foreign Minister was born in Cordoba May 17, 1873. He is a lawyer by profession, speaks Spanish and English, is very pleasant but not particularly forceful. Has been governor of Cordoba, deputy and senator from that province and was ambassador to Great Britain for returning the visit of the Prince of Wales to Argentina 1933; he was named ambassador to Brazil in 1938 but resigned on account of ill health.

He is a National Democrat in politics, sympathetic toward the United States, favors American solidarity. Is married, a Roman Catholic and his only recreation is occasional golf. He has been decorated by Great Britain, Belgium, Spain, France and Italy. He is the son of ex-President General Julio A. Roca.

M. A. Devine, Jr.
M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attache.

All copies airmailed Sept. 6th.

G-2 Distribution: 4, 5, 6,
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From M. A. Argentina Report No. 6324 Date September 5, 1940.
This line to appear on all succeeding pages

In reply
refer to:
Serial No. 510

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TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1484-85

February 18, 1941

Subject: Theoretical and actual form of government - Argentina.
(I.G. No. 3000)

To: The A.C. of S., G-2
War Department
Washington, D.C.

The Republic is composed of a Federal District (like the District of Columbia), fourteen Provinces and ten National Territories. The Federal District has an executive head (Municipal Mayor) appointed by the President of the Republic with the approval of the National Senate and the deliberative body (City Council) is elected by popular vote.

The National Congress has its seat in the Federal Capitol and as in U.S.A. is divided in two houses: i.e., the Senate (two senators for each province) and a Chamber of Deputies (representatives vary in accordance with the number of inhabitants of each Province). The deputies are elected directly by the people, whereas the senators are elected by the provincial legislatures.

Each of the fourteen provinces possess an executive department and deliberative body (Chambers of Senators and Deputies in some, while in others only one Chamber exists). Representatives are elective for both bodies. The principal cities have an executive department (either Municipal Mayor, President of the Municipality or President of the Town Council) and deliberative bodies (City Councils or Town Councils).

All deliberative bodies are elected by popular vote and the executive chiefs are designated by the Provincial Executive Department in some provinces, whereas in others they are elected by popular vote.

The Executive Department of the National Territories (i.e. the Governors of Territories) are designated by the Executive Department of the Nation with the approval of the National Senate. In the Territories there does not exist a territorial deliberative body nor are they represented in the National Congress. The communities are governed by Mayors (Executive Department) generally appointed by the Governor of the Territory, and City Councils (deliberative bodies) elected by popular vote.

In this country there exist three fundamental parties: Radical (Radical), National Democrat (Democrata Nacional) and Socialist (Socialista).

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The National Democrat Party is the old Conservative party, which has introduced in its political platform such modifications as to place it on an equal footing with the most advanced parties.

The Conservative party was in power for various decades. The Radical party constituted the opposition party since 1890 and organized several revolutions to overthrow the government, without success. It was undoubtedly a party whose doctrines were far in advance of the Conservative's, but in spite of its great popularity it only succeeded in entering the Executive Department of the Nation in 1914 and remained in power until the 1930 Revolution.

The third party is the Socialist, which is only popular in the Federal Capitol and in a small number of cities in the interior.

The Radical party, as a result of the Revolution of 1930 which overthrew it from power, suffered a serious division (the revolution was instigated by conservatives, socialists, progressive democrats and radicals opposed to the political attitude of the then President, Sr. Irigoyen, and the Radical Antipersonalist party was formed. This party is generally working in conjunction with the National Democrat party and has acquired diverse denominations, according to the localities in which it is functioning, such as Union Civica Radical de Santa Fe, Union Civica Radical de Tucuman (although this party may sometimes operate independently), Junta Reorganizadora de la Union Civica Radical (Reorganizing Council of the Radical Civic Union). After the fall of Irigoyen the traditional Radical party lost a great deal of power and followers, but in the course of time has once more acquired enormous importance.

Discounting the Socialist party, whose zone of efficient action is reduced to the Federal Capitol and a limited number of cities, in the national, provincial, and communal elections, the National Democrat, Radical Traditionalist and Radical Antipersonalist parties fight for supremacy. The most fierce political battles are those in which the position of the radicals and their dissident faction is at stake.

There exist other parties which occasionally put up candidates for election, such as the Progressive Democrat party, which enjoys much popularity in the Province of Santa Fe, parties of a solely communal formation and lastly, the Communist Party. This last party acquired some success some years ago, but was only able to obtain a limited number of seats in the council in the Cities of Buenos Aires and Rosario. This party is disappearing, being absorbed by the Socialist party.

(1) Case of the Province of Santa Fe

Parties governing the different provinces.

Federal interventions in the Provinces of Buenos Aires, San Juan, and La Rioja.

CONFIDENTIAL

Situation of the Presidency of the Nation

Excepting the Socialist Party which maintains a definite and fixed policy, the remaining party platforms are somewhat flexible, originating governmental policies in accordance with the personal aspirations of the governor (as in the case of Entre Rios - Tibiletti - Mihura). The different parties include in the pre-electoral platforms the most up to date concepts of a social and economic nature, tending towards the State control of the services, the exploitation of mineral resources, furtherance of the cooperative movements, advanced social and labor laws, etc., but in the course of their governmental office they mould themselves to the special circumstances of the moment.

When governors have withdrawn from the party platforms, they have in some instances suffered interpellations on the part of the authorities of their party, but in general these summons have not attained any importance nor have they altered the normal course of events.

Under the circumstances that all parties have very similar platforms, the result is that, with the exception of the Socialist party, and due to the fact that the voting public do not have a definite policy on which to pin their vote, they are swayed by sympathy and party loyalty, confidence in the candidates or opposition to the governing party. As proof of this is the fact that every one of these parties has followers of every social condition, economic position and all branches of industry and commerce.

The Socialist Party, despite its long years of existence, has been unable to conquer other positions, apart from those previously specified in the Federal Capitol, Mar del Plata and three or four small cities in the interior of the country. As these promise social conquests as interesting as those prescribed by the socialists, the working and middle class do not see the necessity of affiliating themselves to the Socialist Party for the obtaining of their ends.

FREDERICK D. SHAFF
Major, G.S.C.

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